(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether responsibility has since been fixed in this case and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVUAY SINGH): (a) to (c) Based on difference in rates of High Tensile Wire finalised in tenders in November, 94 and rates being reimbursed to concrete sleeper manufacturers as per policy decision taken in April, 1992, it was perceived that Railways were losing twenty four crores of rupees per annum. However, this estimate didn't account for saving to Railways by way of the cost in processing of tenders and procurement, rehandling/retransport of material, cost of storage and damage during storage as compared to allowing sleeper manufacturer to procure it directly. Railways had carried out review of some old cases and already recovered Rs. 5.4 crores claimed as excess amount. Railway appointed a Committee to investigate the aspects of collusion by sleeper manufacturer in claiming higher rates. Based on committee's recommendation and for complete review, committees have been appointed at zonal railways for undertaking "Book Examination" of records of all sleeper manufacturing firms of relevant period to assess the excess amount claimed by them if any and fix responsibility.

Railway have revised policy since November, 1994 to arrange supply of High Tensile steel wire to the sleeper manufacturers based on rates finalised in open tenders by the Railway Board.

Agreement by Zonal Railways for Awarding Book Stalls

1074. SHRI JALALUDIN ANSARI:
SHRI GAYA SINGH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an agreement is to be executed by the Zonal Railways with each of the book stall contractors, including unemployed graduate categories, on awarding a book stall; if so, the terms and conditions thereof;

(b) what are the norms/rules framed for the book stall contractors to consider their services/working as satisfactory; and

(c) what are the details of instructions/directions issued from time to time by the Ministry in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVUAY SINGH): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir.

The norms prescribed in the agreement/instructions issued by the Railway administration from time to time stipulate—

(i) Book Stall Licencees will sell only books, newspapers, periodicals and literature of good quality and (of national integration and communal harmony) including that in regional languages;

(ii) Sale and display of objectionable literature or any obscene publication is not permitted;

(iii) They should regularly pay their dues to the Railways and do all work connected with management of book stalls including train side vending only by themselves;

(iv) Over-charging of publications and misbehaviour with passengers will be viewed seriously.

Stoppage of Express Trains at Kagaznagar, Bellampalli and Tandur

1075. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether requests have been received for stopping Mangala Express and Navajeevan Express at Kagaznagar; G.T. Express at Bellampalli and Janata Express at Tandur in Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the measurs taken to comply with the requests?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Some representations have been received. Stoppage of 6031/6032 Andaman Express (known as Janata Express) has been provided at Rechni Road station (locally known as Tandur) w.e.f. 01.12.1999. 2617/2618 Mangala Express has been diverted to run via Konkan Railway Route w.e.f. 1.8.1998. This train does not pass through Sirpurkagaznagar Station now. Provision of stoppage of 6045/6046 Navjeevan Express at Sirpurkagaznagar and 2615/2616 G.T. Express at Bellampalli has been examined but not found feasible due to lack of commercial justification.